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RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0433
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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 000668

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MISSION GENEVA
ALSO DEPT AF/E FOR B YODER AND D MALAC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/08/2012
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [TZ](#)
SUBJECT: TANZANIA TO VOTE AGAINST BELARUS ON UN HUMAN
RIGHTS COUNCIL

REF: STATE 58056

Classified By: Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, Tulinabo Mushingi, for r
eason 1.4 (b and d).

11. (C) Ambassador Begum Taj, Head of the Multilateral
Affairs Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA),
told Poloff on May 8 that Tanzania would not vote for Belarus
as a member on the UN Human Rights Council. "The Government
of Tanzania (GOT) is very sensitive on human rights. If a
country is on record for failing to protect human rights,
then we will not support them. In short, we will not vote
for Belarus," Taj explained.

12. (C) In addition, Ambassador Taj revealed to Poloff that
in 2009, the GOT planned to run as a candidate for membership
on the UN Human Rights Council. "We were reluctant to seek
membership this year because we felt it was too soon and we
were concerned that the Council might end up as a defunct
organization. If the Council proves effective, however, then
we will most likely seek membership in 2009," Taj stated.
Poloff noted that the U.S. had encouraged Tanzania to seek
membership in 2007 due to the GOT's commitment to promoting
human rights and, said that if such commitment continued, the
U.S. would surely support Tanzania's candidacy in 2009.
RETZER